

3-28-1859

Letter from Samuel Johnson, Salem, Massachusetts, to Anne Whitney, 1859 March 28

Samuel Johnson

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was the sole result of an
anxious Consultation be-
tween the Compilers of the
notable publication in
question.

With no sort of Doubt
that your own interest will
be the best guide to your
invention as to this hard
problem, and with hopes
soon to see the Substance,
of so much more import-
ance than the name, I
am Truly Yr. friend
S. Johnson

Salmon Mar 28. '59

Dear Miss Whitney

I am glad to
learn that your preliminary
difficulties are over at last,
and that the Appraisers &c.
the good sense not to let
any doubts as to the sale
of the book interfere with
their publishing it. They
are certainly the best per-
sons for this purpose, what-
ever may be thought of
their predictions.

As regards the "baptismal" question, I wish I could help you with suggestions - but nothing seems to come to mind. Indeed I hope you have already decided the matter for yourself: and I should certainly shrink from suggesting any name to you, considering that I know so little of the contents, form, or structure of the collection; there being a great difference between name & form, both observed - which we can appreciate but

myself, in this case.

I remember the tribulation I was in naming the few Sermons I have ^{collected} & think, if it were my case, I should cut the knot at once by taking as a title the largest piece in the collection, & the most important. Observe the poverty of resource betrayed in the following twisted & feeble title - A Book of Hymns! It is as bad as Dr. Frank-
lin's Better-Sign. Let it